

Message Text

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PAGE 01 Lening 00400 061017Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-08 AGRE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01

IO-13 /085 W

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FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3059

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EALR, ECON, EPAP, PDEV, PINR, SOCI, UR

SUBJ: LATVIAN FOOD SUPPLIES: RIGA AND VENTSPILS

REF: LENINGRAD 0398

1. SUMMARY: MEAT SUPPLY IN RIGA LIMITED AND EXPENSIVE AND SITUATION STILL MORE SERIOUS IN VENTSPILS WHERE ONLY SAUSAGE AND IMPORTED CHICKENS AVAILABLE IN ANY SUPPLY. FRESH FISH WAS NOT SEEN IN EITHER PLACE. FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SITUATION ADEQUATE IN RIGA, BUT POOR IN VENTSPILS. END SUMMARY.

2. A TOUR OF PRINCIPAL COLLECTIVE FARM MARKETS AND STATE STORES IN RIGA AND VENTSPILS ON MARCH 31 AND APRIL 1 REVEALED THAT MEAT SHORTAGE (REFTEL) STILL VERY MUCH IN EVIDENCE. IN RIGA, MEAT IN CENTRAL COLLECTIVE FARM MARKET WAS IN SHORT SUPPLY AND EXPENSIVE, CONFIRMING REPORTS OF PRICES UP TO 6 RUBLES PER KILO. THERE ALSO WERE NOTABLE LONG LINES FOR VERY LOW QUALITY, BUT CHEAP PROTEIN SUCH AS SOUP BONES (.16 PER KOLO--ALL SUBSEQUENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 Lening 00400 061017Z

PRICES RUBLES PER KILO) AND FROZEN TRIPE (.25).

LARGE STOCKS OF CHICKEN HEADS ALSO AVAILABLE FOR

.20. GENERAL MEAT PRICES WERE AS FOLLOWS: PORK

(3-3.50), PORK LOIN (5), VEAL (4.50-6) DEPENDING

ON QUALITY, BEEF (3-4 BONE IN, POOR CHUCK)

(5) BETTER QUALITY), FAT BACK (2.50-3.50), CHICKENS

(2.50) ONE WHOLE FRESH HEN (11), LARD (1.90),

PIGS HEADS (.20) AND FROZEN COW'S FEET (.25), EGGS (1.60-1.80 PER 10). CURIOUSLY, THE LARGEST SUPPLY OF MEAT VISIBLE WAS HALF DOZEN OR SO CARCASSES WHICH LOCAL BYSTANDERS TOOK PAINS TO MAKE CLEAR WERE WILD PIG (2.70). IN RIGA'S CENTRAL GASTRONOM THE FRESH MEAT SUPPLY WAS LIMITED TO BEEF ROULET (2.56), ALTHOUGH AMPLE LARGE WEINERS (2.50) AND SAUSAGES WERE AVAILABLE (2.70-2.40). AMPLE SUPPLIES OF CHEESE WERE ON HAND (2.00-2.90). THERE WERE LONG LINES FOR EGGS AT .70 PER 10, SUBSTANTIALLY LESS THAN HALF THE PRICE OF EGGS AT COLLECTIVE FARM MARKET. FISH (CANNED, SMOKED, SALTED, FROZEN) RANGED BETWEEN .33-2.96, BUT NO FRESH FISH WAS SEEN EITHER IN RIGA OR VENTSPILS.

3. IN VENTSPILS VERY LITTLE MEAT WAS AVAILABLE IN EITHER THE COLLECTIVE FARM MARKET OR STATE STORES. AT THE MARKET, ALL THAT WAS AVAILABLE WAS POOR BEEF (2-3.50), FATTY PORK (3.50-4.00), SMOKED BACON (5.20), AND IMPORTED DANISH AND WEST GERMAN CHICKENS (2.80). EGGS WERE SELLING AT 1.50. PER 10. ONLY MEAT AVAILABLE AT STATE STORES VISITED WAS SAUSAGE (1.70-2.80) AND IMPORTED CHICKEN (2.80) WITH LONG LINES FOR BOTH.

4. IN RIGA AN AMPLE SUPPLY OF FRUITS WAS AVAILABLE AT COLLECTIVE FARM MARKET INCLUDING ORANGES (1.40-LONG LINE), LEMONS (.25 EA.), APPLES (.20-1.20) AND POMEGRANAGES (.50-2.50 EA.). FRESH VEGETABLES INCLUDING SOME LETTUCE (5) WERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 LENDING 00400 061017Z

AVAILABLE BUT GENERALLY EXPENSIVE. SOME REPRESENTATIVE PRICES WERE: CABBAGE (1), ONIONS (.25PER BUNCH), RADISHES (1 PER BUNCH), CARROTS (.50-.80), LARGE ONIONS (.80), FRESH HORSERADISH (.50-2.50). HONEY, WHICH WE WERE TOLD WAS IN SHORT SUPPLY, WAS BRINGING HIGH PRICES (6). AMPLE SAUERKRAUT AND A WIDE VARIETY OF VEGETABLE SEEDS WERE AVAILABLE (.20-.50 PER SPOON FULL).

5. FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SITUATION IN VENTSPILS WAS POOR. COLLECTIVE MARKET HAD ONLY FEW ITEMS INCLUDING APPLES (.50-.70), POTATOES (.35), RADISHES (1 PER BUNCH), LARGE ONIONS (1.20-1.60) AND HONEY (5). SITUATION ONLY marginally BETTER IN THE STATE STORES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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